

REMARKS

Claims are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 20 and 29 have been amended herein. Applicant submits that the amendments to claims 1, 11, 20, and 29 are not narrowing and related to patentability.

Because these claim amendments generally restore the claims to the state as presented in the amendment filed on May 25, 2004, Applicant respectfully submits that these claim amendments do not require a new search and/or require further consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the claim amendments presented herein be entered.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 10, 14, 19, 23, 28, 32 and 37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on July 24, 2001 are acceptable.

Applicant notes with appreciation the inclusion of a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 19, 2004. The references listed therein are initialed by the Examiner,

thereby indicating that these references were considered by the Examiner, and should be listed on the face of any patent that issues from the present application.

The previous Office Action dated February 25, 2004 indicated that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Apparently, the title as amended in the Amendment filed on May 25, 2004, overcame this objection.

## II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 11, 20 AND 29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 1, 11, 20 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because the phrase “types of device” allegedly is not supported in the disclosure.

The phrase “types of device” was added in the Amendment filed on May 25, 2004. While Applicant believes that this added language is inherent in the teachings of the subject specification, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 29, as shown above to remove the phrase “types of device.”

## III. PRIOR ART REJECTION

A. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34 and 36

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,223, 218 (Iijima). This rejection is traversed.

This rejection is substantially similar to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34 and 36 presented in the Office Action dated February 25, 2004.

Applicant submits that the “device identifying information” mentioned by the Examiner refers to the identity of a particular device, not to network devices having a specific “device identifying information,” as in the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that Iijima fails to teach or suggest to assign network devices having a specific device identifying information to the VLAN corresponding to this device identifying information, as recited by independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 29. Also, Applicant submits that Iijima does not teach the use of the device identifying information to identify the network device.

B. Claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30

Also, the Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,238 (Yuasa). This rejection is traversed.

This rejection is substantially similar to the rejection of claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 presented in the Office Action dated February 25, 2004.

Applicant submits that Yuasa fails to make up for the above-described deficiency of Iijima. Therefore, the combination of Iijima and Yuasa fails to form the invention defined by claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 (see MPEP 2143.03, *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)). Thus, the rejection of claims 2, 3, 12, 21 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

C. Claims 8, 17, 26 and 35

The Office Action rejects claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,967 (Raab). This rejection is traversed.

This rejection is substantially similar to the rejection of claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 presented in the Office Action dated February 25, 2004.

Applicant submits that Raab fails to make up for the above-described deficiency of Iijima. Therefore, the combination of Iijima and Raab fails to form the invention defined by claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 (see MPEP 2143.03, *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)). Thus, the rejection of claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

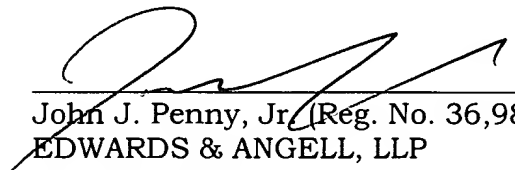
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If the Examiner believes that any outstanding issue could be resolved through a telephone interview, Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 8, 2004  
Customer No.: 21874

  
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